GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1551
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2000
OUTLAY ON AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
RASHID ALVI

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the expenditure on Agricultural Research and Development has been rising;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years;

(c) whether the equality of Research and Development work of ICAR has declined day-by-day;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the ICAR is promoting the growth of organic food in order to uplift the food production in the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. The total expenditure on agricultural research and development during the last three years (for which the annual accounts) are completed has been on the rise and the details are given below:

(Rs. in crore)

1996-97	609.93
1997-98	695.38
1998-99	972.49

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) & (f) Yes, Sir. ICAR through its various research programmes has always promoted the concept of `Integrated Plant Nutrient System` which is a need based and sustainable system of supplying plant nutrients through a judicious mix of organic and inorganic sources. Emphasis has not been on enhancing `productivity` at the expense of `production capability` of the soil resources. ICAR has conducted several workshops/symposia on organic farming and an AICRP purely devoted to decomposition of organic materials has generated very useful technologies for efficient use of the organic resources. Establishment of soil testing facilities at district level to assure soil test based nutrient application is yet another effort to improve nutrient use efficiency.